REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-64 are pending in the application. Claims 1-64 are subject to an election of species requirement.

Applicants request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks and the following election of species.

II. <u>Election of Species Requirement</u>

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner requires that Applicants elect a single disclosed species from:

- (A) the species to a bale of elastomer composite; and
- (B) the species to a container occupied by elastomer composite pieces. Applicants hereby elect Species A.

Claims 1-33 read on the elected species.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and election of species, Applicants request reexamination of the claims.

Date: 24 June 2004

Respectfully submitted

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